

The Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) met November 28th to consider a comprehensive economic development project. Passed unanimously, the Strategic Economic Plan (StEP) project proposes to take an economic inventory of Ravalli County's private industry, public infrastructure, natural resource utilization potential, and obstacles to growth among key market segments. The point of this data gathering and validation is, of course, to facilitate the creation of new jobs.

The BCC has begun a process to identify persons who may be interested in any of the many opportunities to participate in this project. The first of which is a 9 person Steering Committee for the project. The steering committee will consist of two commissioners, the county planning department administrator, the executive director of the RCEDA, and five citizen members. The steering committee will further refine the process and scope of the project, define major market segments and focus areas, and establish committees to gather and validate information. Interested persons are encouraged to contact the office of the commissioners.

The StEP project is intended to serve three purposes: The project will identify strengths and functional clusters within the local economy, establish the possibility and obstacles of utilizing our abundant natural resources, and facilitate goal setting for future economic development projects.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact me at 406-369-2976 at your convenience.

Thanks, Commissioner Matt Kanenwisher

Strategic Economic Planning

Ravalli County StEP project to identify resources and opportunity for economic development and business recruitment



IDENTIFY

ASSESS

REPORT

PURPOSE of PROJECT

- To provide comprehensive and/or baseline information for government agency use when considering criteria for state or federal programs or planning
- To provide industry with an accurate picture of opportunities within Ravalli County
- To provide county government with accurate information for economic development and business recruitment efforts

Possible Outcomes

- ID Public resources – natural resource utilization
- ID Public Infrastructure – County, State, and Federal infrastructure asset and opportunity
- ID Private sector production and functional clusters
- ID and prioritize opportunities for interagency planning
- Plan infrastructure focus to support existing private sector strengths
- Provide research and planning services which small businesses lack

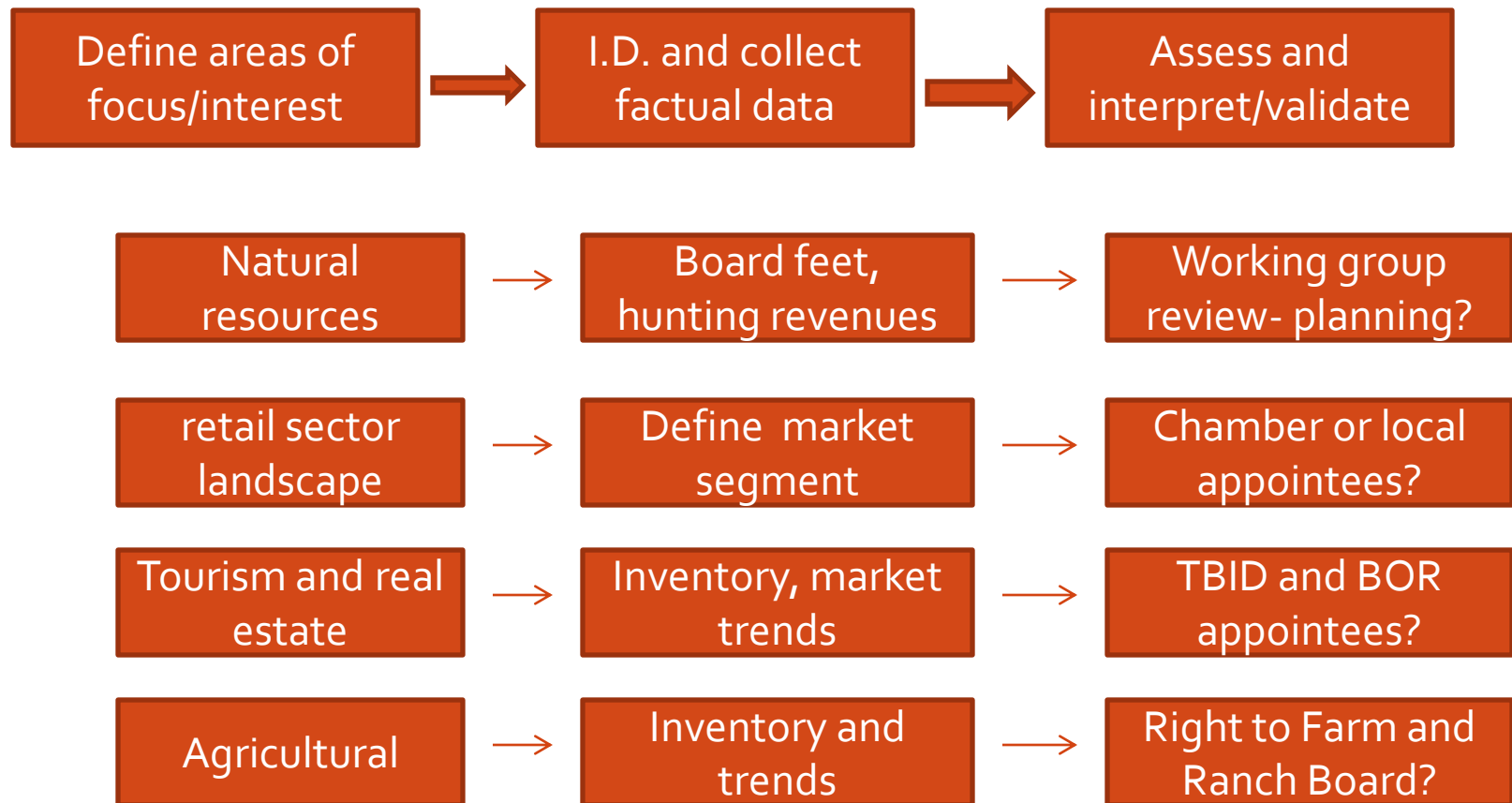
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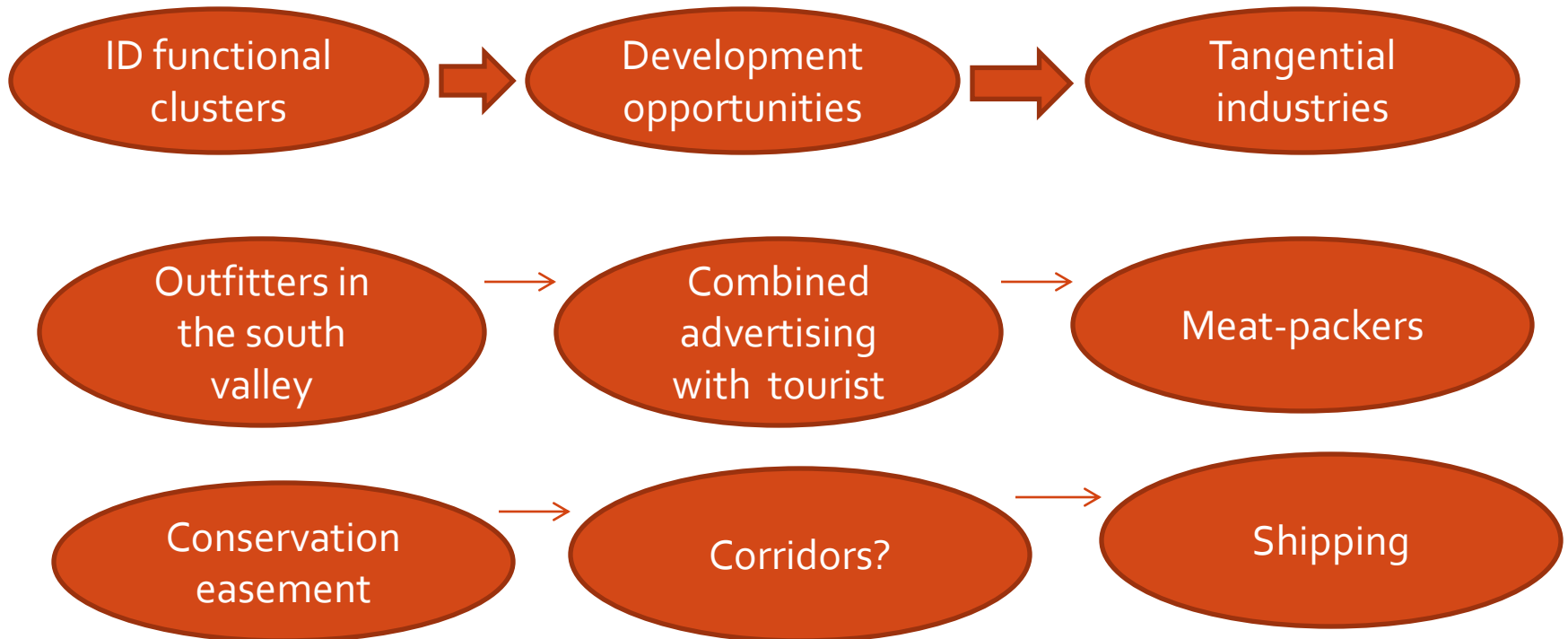
JOBS JOBS

Project Development Process

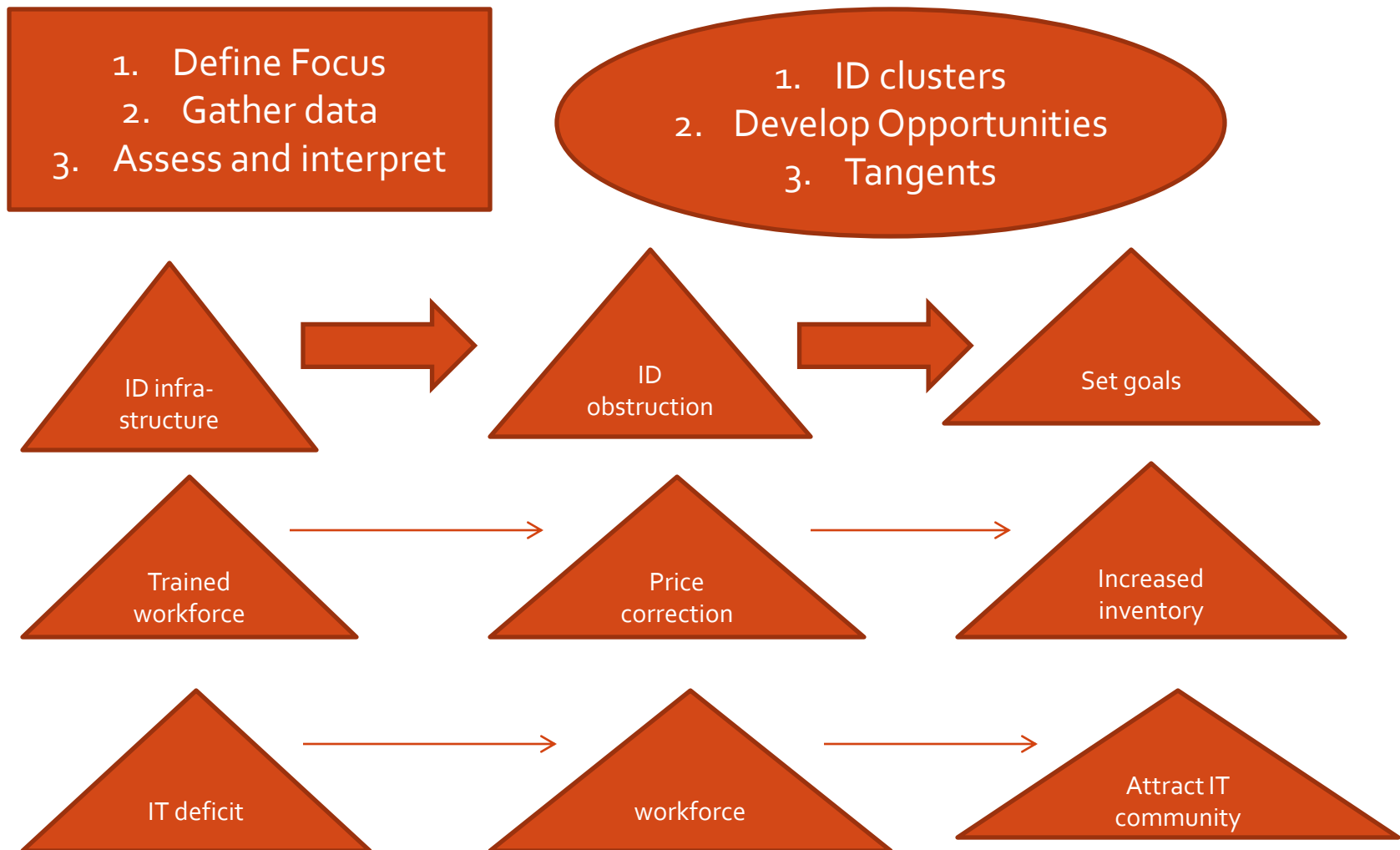


Project Development Process

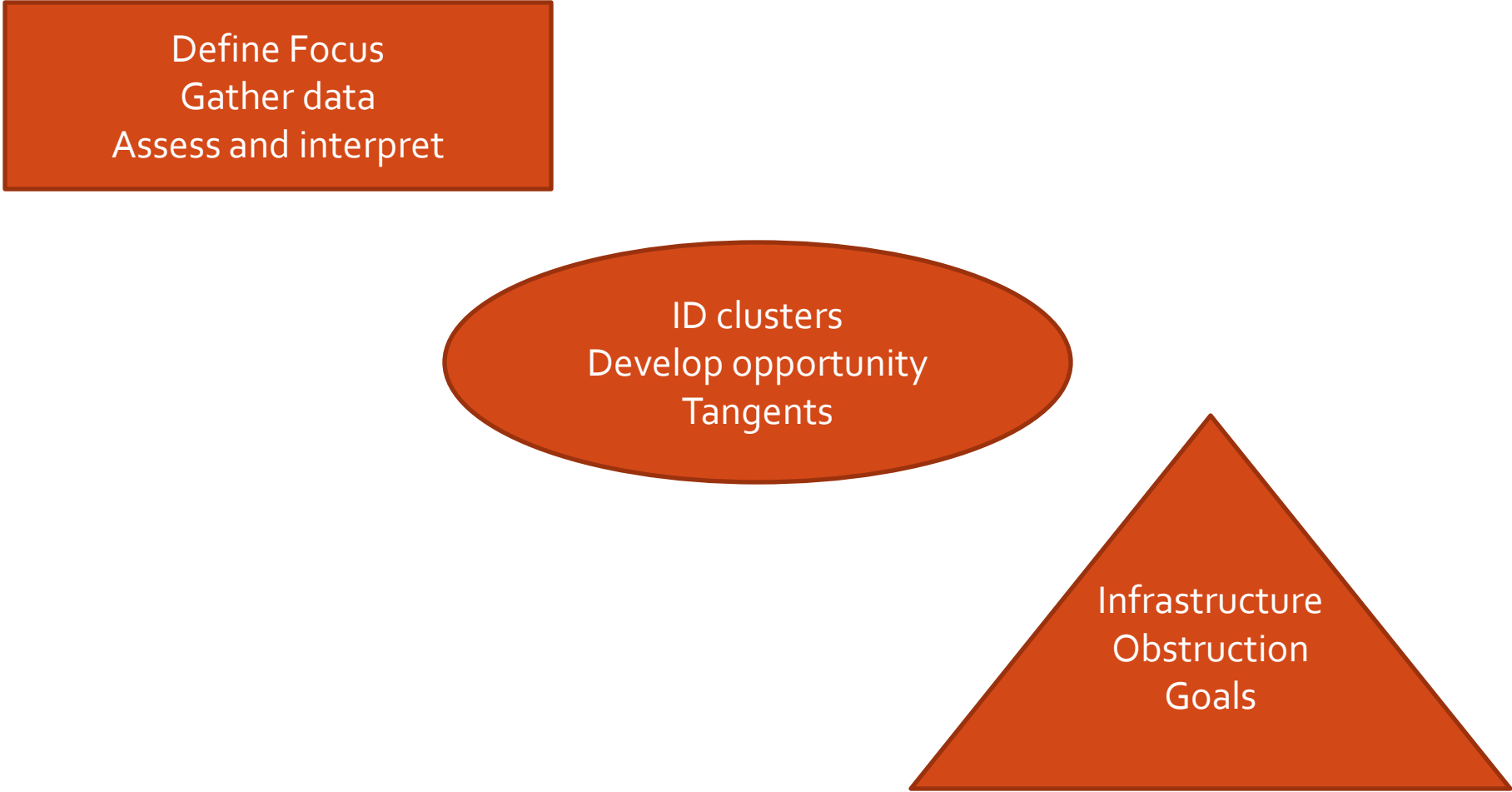
1. Define focus
2. Gather data
3. Assess and interpret



Project Development Process



Project Development Process



The diagram illustrates the Project Development Process through three distinct shapes: a rectangle, an oval, and a triangle. The rectangle is positioned in the upper left, the oval is in the center, and the triangle is in the lower right. Each shape contains a list of tasks or concepts related to the project development process.

Define Focus
Gather data
Assess and interpret

ID clusters
Develop opportunity
Tangents

Infrastructure
Obstruction
Goals

Other possible uses

RCEDA DOCUMENTS PLANNING AND SUBDIVISION

COORDINATION STATE GRANT

CRITERIA USFS AND MTFWP FEEDBACK

GROWTH POLICY **private sector**

reference material open lands bond

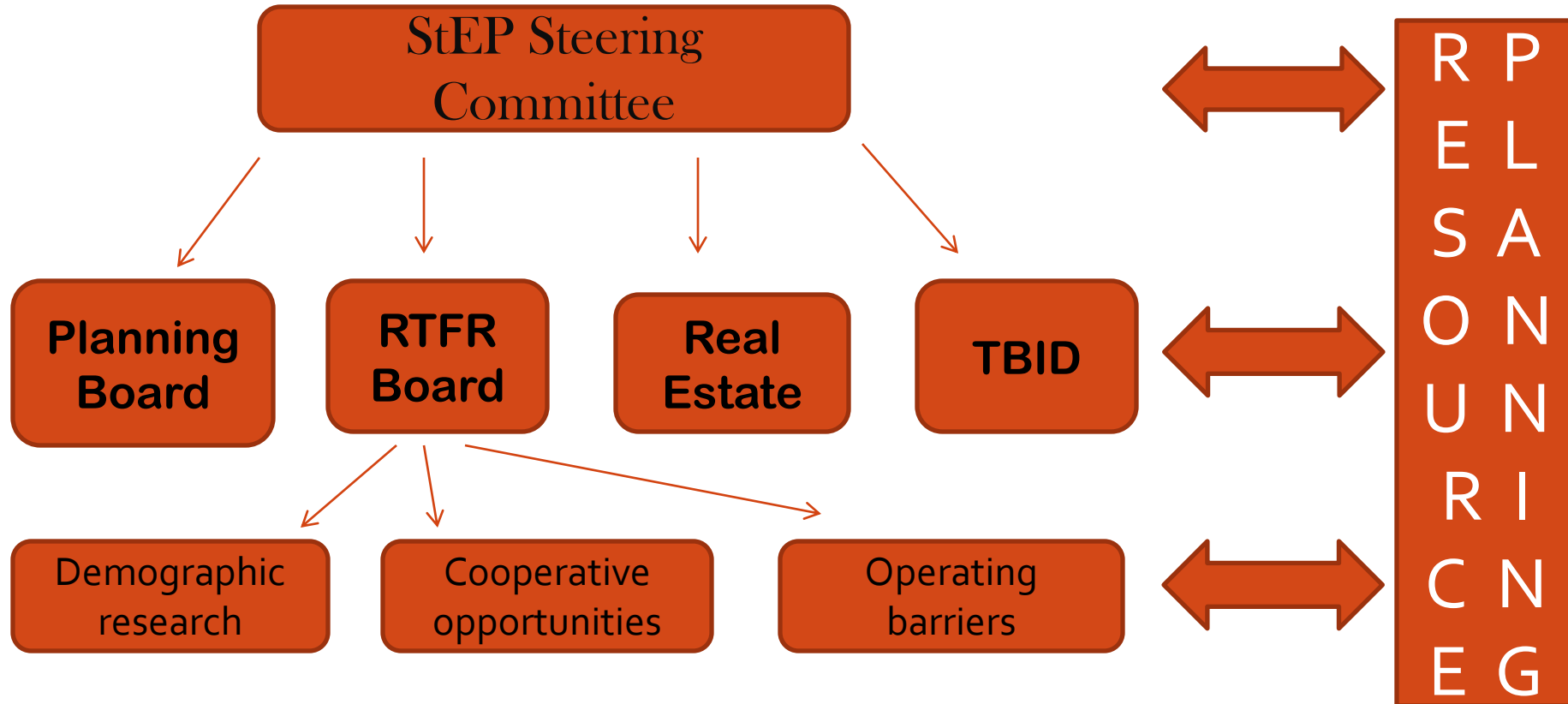
criteria **business recruitment**

material Hopefully, the data will be
used for things we haven't yet thought of!

Action Items for StEP project

1. Schedule next meeting to decide whether or not to proceed
2. Task planning department with project development assistance
3. Appoint steering committee: 2 cocomms, planning administrator, RCEDA director, 3 citizens (7 person committee)
4. Establish schedule for stages of development

Organizational Flow Chart



INITIAL QUESTIONS FOR STEERING COMMITTEE

- What are major component industries in Ravalli County?
- Are any so structurally or functionally similar that they are more appropriately combined?
- Who is most capable as well as convenient to gather data and evaluate/validate?
- What questions are each group answering?
- What is the process for return and report function?

Additional food for thought

- Can we look at water as infrastructure as well as a natural resource? If so, what are the market, regulatory, use trends and how will they affect current use?
- It is more useful to consider things as they are than it is to consider things as we wish they were.
- This is more useful for learning things we don't know than attempting to prove things we think we do know.
- Lots of private sector people find public meetings painful. We feel your pain, we understand, and we need you to get over that. We need experienced marketing, finance, and business people.